

-- RESOLUTION --
SCRS EXAMINE EFFECTS OF MIXING & CONSIDERATION OF
APPROPRIATENESS OF CURRENT BOUNDARY FOR E-W MANAGEMENT UNITS

TITLE: *Resolution by ICCAT for SCRS to Examine the Effects of Mixing for Stock Assessments & Management and Consider the Appropriateness of the Current Boundary Between the Western and Eastern Management Units for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*
(Transmitted to Contracting Parties: **December 27, 2000**)

RECALLING that the Commission adopted, in 1996, a *Resolution for SCRS to Evaluate the Appropriateness of the Current Boundary Between East and West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*;

NOTING that every report of the SCRS since the early 1990's has noted the potential importance of mixing of western and eastern bluefin tuna for stock assessment and management advice;

ALSO NOTING that the 2000 SCRS Report recognizes that accumulating evidence, including recent results from electronic tagging, makes clear that the populations of fish and fisheries in the western and eastern management units are related;

CONSIDERING the continuous distribution of catches of Atlantic bluefin tuna across the Atlantic Ocean;

GIVEN THAT the SCRS called for an inter-sessional meeting to review and integrate research results on mixing;

RECOGNIZING that the specification of management units and management boundaries will, by necessity, require the integration of both management needs and scientific information;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES:

- 1 That the SCRS should hold an inter-sessional meeting to:
 - i* Review results from electronic and conventional tagging programs conducted in the West and East Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea;
 - ii* Re-evaluate the appropriateness of the current boundary between the eastern and western Atlantic Ocean management units, and further consider how to take into account the mixing of bluefin tuna between the management units in stock assessments, and in management.
 - iii* Develop recommendations to the Commission regarding future management strategies that take account of mixing.
- 2 That the inter-sessional meeting shall be held in a timely manner so that the results and recommendations can be presented to the Commission meeting in 2001.